

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 019647
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
INR:HSAUNDERS
S/S: PTARNOFF
NSC:WM. QUANDT

-----127451 250305Z /65

O 250219Z JAN 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 019647

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY, FOR ATHERTON USDEL NO.11

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: F-15S

1. PLEASE SEE FAHD AND SAY THAT I HAVE ASKED YOU TO TELL HIM THAT THE PRESIDENT AND I HAVE BEEN GIVING VERY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THE QUESTION OF HOW TO MOVE AHEAD MOST EFFECTIVELY ON F-15S. AS THE PRESIDENT TOLD FAHD, WE WILL MOVE AHEAD AND INTEND TO DO SO PROMPTLY. WE FULLY APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE THAT SAG ATTACHES TO THIS QUESTION AND ARE SYMPATHETIC TO ITS DESIRES FOR EARLY, CONCRETE STEPS ON PROVIDING THE F-15S.

2. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT, AS FAHD KNOWS BOTH FROM THE MEDIA AND OUR PRIVATE REPORTS TO HIM, THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION HAS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 019647

BEEN COMPLICATED BY THE PAUSE IN THE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. WE ARE AND WILL REMAIN ACTIVE IN AN EFFORT TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO GET THE NEGOTIATIONS BACK ON TRACK. IN THIS CONNECTION, YOU SHOULD ASSURE FAHD THAT THE PRESIDENT AND I ARE TAKING FULLY INTO ACCOUNT THE CONCERN ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION EXPRESSED IN THE KING'S RECENT MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT AND

IN THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S TALK WITH YOU OVER THE WEEKEND.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON HAS REMAINED IN JERUSALEM AND
WILL STAY IN DIRECT TOUCH, TOGETHER WITH OUR AMBASSADORS,

WITH OFFICIALS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

3. YOU SHOULD ADD PARENTHETICALLY THAT IN CONNECTION WITH
EFFORTS TO RESTORE MOVEMENT IN THE PEACE PROCESS, ISRAELI
DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN, WHO HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO VISIT
WASHINGTON THIS WEEK, HAS POSTPONED HIS VISIT FOR SOME
TIME. WE THEREFORE DO NOT CONTEMPLATE PROPOSING AT THIS
TIME TO THE CONGRESS ADDITIONAL ADVANCED AIRCRAFT FOR
ISRAEL.

4. FINALLY, TELL FAHD THAT I HAVE ASKED YOU TO SAY THAT
THE PRESIDENT IS PREPARED TO SEND FORWARD TO THE CONGRESS
IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE A REQUEST FOR F-15S FOR SAUDI
ARABIA IF THAT IS FAHD'S WISH. BUT WE WOULD LIKE FOR HIM
TO CONSIDER THE TACTICAL ADVANTAGES OF DELAYING UNTIL THE
PEACEMAKING EFFORT REGAINS MOMENTUM TO PROVIDE A MORE
PROPITIOUS ATMOSPHERE FOR CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF
OUR REQUEST. I KNOW FAHD SHARES OUR DESIRE TO HANDLE CON-
GRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN A MANNER MAXIMIZING THE CHANCES
OF SUCCESS; AT THE SAME TIME, WE WANT TO MINIMIZE THE SORT
OF PUBLIC CONTROVERSY WHICH WOULD BE EMBARRASSING TO THE
U.S.-SAUDI RELATIONSHIP AS WELL AS HARMFUL TO THE OVERALL
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 019647

ATMOSPHERE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS. WITH THESE
CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, THE PRESIDENT AND I BELIEVE THERE
WOULD BE DISTINCT ADVANTAGES IN HOLDING BACK FOR THE MOMENT
ON THE SAUDI F-15 AND OTHER PENDING PROPOSALS FOR MAJOR
MIDDLE EAST ARMS SALES. WHEN WE PUT THE PROPOSAL FORWARD,
WE WOULD PRESENT IT IN A BROAD MIDDLE EASTERN PACKAGE
WHICH WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE EGYPT AND ISRAEL IN ORDER TO
MINIMIZE OPPOSITION. WE WISHED TO PUT THIS MATTER CAN-
DIDLY BEFORE FAHD AND WOULD APPRECIATE HIS REACTION. IN
THE END, HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT
MADE A COMMITMENT AND WILL BE GUIDED BY FAHD'S DESIRES.

VANCE

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 019647
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:LFLEISCHER

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:LFLEISCHER

-----002621 251256Z /42

O 251150Z JAN 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 019647

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOL SECSTATE 019647 SENT ACTION JIDDA INFO JERUSALEM

JAN 25, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 019647

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY, FOR ATHERTON USDEL NO.11

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: F-15S

1. PLEASE SEE FAHD AND SAY THAT I HAVE ASKED YOU TO TELL HIM THAT THE PRESIDENT AND I HAVE BEEN GIVING VERY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THE QUESTION OF HOW TO MOVE AHEAD MOST EFFECTIVELY ON F-15S. AS THE PRESIDENT TOLD FAHD, WE WILL MOVE AHEAD AND INTEND TO DO SO PROMPTLY. WE FULLY APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE THAT SAG ATTACHES TO THIS QUESTION

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 019647

AND ARE SYMPATHETIC TO ITS DESIRES FOR EARLY, CONCRETE STEPS ON PROVIDING THE F-15S.

2. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT, AS FAHD KNOWS BOTH FROM THE MEDIA AND OUR PRIVATE REPORTS TO HIM, THE IMMEDIATE SITUATION HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY THE PAUSE IN THE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. WE ARE AND WILL REMAIN ACTIVE IN AN EFFORT TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO GET THE NEGOTIA-

TIONS BACK ON TRACK. IN THIS CONNECTION, YOU SHOULD ASSURE FAHD THAT THE PRESIDENT AND I ARE TAKING FULLY INTO ACCOUNT THE CONCERN ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION EXPRESSED IN THE KING'S RECENT MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT AND IN THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S TALK WITH YOU OVER THE WEEKEND. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON HAS REMAINED IN JERUSALEM AND WILL STAY IN DIRECT TOUCH, TOGETHER WITH OUR AMBASSADORS,

WITH OFFICIALS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

3. YOU SHOULD ADD PARENTHETICALLY THAT IN CONNECTION WITH EFFORTS TO RESTORE MOVEMENT IN THE PEACE PROCESS, ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN, WHO HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO VISIT WASHINGTON THIS WEEK, HAS POSTPONED HIS VISIT FOR SOME TIME. WE THEREFORE DO NOT CONTEMPLATE PROPOSING AT THIS TIME TO THE CONGRESS ADDITIONAL ADVANCED AIRCRAFT FOR ISRAEL.

4. FINALLY, TELL FAHD THAT I HAVE ASKED YOU TO SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT IS PREPARED TO SEND FORWARD TO THE CONGRESS IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE A REQUEST FOR F-15S FOR SAUDI ARABIA IF THAT IS FAHD'S WISH. BUT WE WOULD LIKE FOR HIM TO CONSIDER THE TACTICAL ADVANTAGES OF DELAYING UNTIL THE PEACEMAKING EFFORT REGAINS MOMENTUM TO PROVIDE A MORE PROPITIOUS ATMOSPHERE FOR CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 019647

OUR REQUEST. I KNOW FAHD SHARES OUR DESIRE TO HANDLE CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN A MANNER MAXIMIZING THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS; AT THE SAME TIME, WE WANT TO MINIMIZE THE SORT OF PUBLIC CONTROVERSY WHICH WOULD BE EMBARRASSING TO THE U.S.-SAUDI RELATIONSHIP AS WELL AS HARMFUL TO THE OVERALL ATMOSPHERE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS. WITH THESE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, THE PRESIDENT AND I BELIEVE THERE WOULD BE DISTINCT ADVANTAGES IN HOLDING BACK FOR THE MOMENT ON THE SAUDI F-15 AND OTHER PENDING PROPOSALS FOR MAJOR MIDDLE EAST ARMS SALES. WHEN WE PUT THE PROPOSAL FORWARD, WE WOULD PRESENT IT IN A BROAD MIDDLE EASTERN PACKAGE WHICH WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE EGYPT AND ISRAEL IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE OPPOSITION. WE WISHED TO PUT THIS MATTER CANDIDLY BEFORE FAHD AND WOULD APPRECIATE HIS REACTION. IN THE END, HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT MADE A COMMITMENT AND WILL BE GUIDED BY FAHD'S DESIRES.
VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, PEACE, AIRCRAFT SALES, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE019647
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SSOBER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850071-2631
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780123/aaaaatmh.tel
Line Count: 218
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 065609e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3715770
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: F-15'S
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, PBOR, SA, US, XF
To: JIDDA JERUSALEM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/065609e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014